

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Confirmation No.: 9089

ISHIDA et al.

Art Unit: 1742

Application No.: 09/673,235

Examiner: Sikyin Ip

Filed: December 1, 2000

Attorney Dkt. No.: 100725-00017

For: SPRING WITH EXCELLENT FATIGUE ENDURANCE PROPERTY
AND SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SPRING

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: July 29, 2002

Dear Sir:

5 In response to the Office Action mailed March 27, 2002, the due date for which has been extended one month with a Petition for Extension of Time attached, applicants request that the application be amended as shown below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the specification with the attached Substitute Specification.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims as set forth below:

1. (Amended) A spring surface treatment method, comprising the steps of:

6→ (A) nitriding surface layer of springs;

(B) projecting hard metal particles having hardness which is lower than the hardness of the nitrided outermost surface layer and is in the range of Hv 500 to 800